

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OFA-01 EB-07 INT-05 IO-11

DLOS-04 COME-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 /088 W

----- 031439

O R 031805Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6010

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0160

E.O. 11"52: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PFOR MARR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: GOI REFUSED UK SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL

1. BRITISH DCM INFORMED EMBASSY DCM THAT PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON HAD TODAY HANDED BRITISH AMBASSADOR EAST FIVE-LINE REPLY TO BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT OF FISHERIES DISPUTE. REPLY REFERRED TO LONDON HALLGRIMSSON-WILSON MEETINGS AND SAID GOI FOUND BRITISH PROPOSALS "UNACCEPTABLE" BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT "FOR A SHORT PERIOD."

2. WHEN EAST ASKED HALLGRIMSSON MEANING OF PHRASE "FOR A SHORT
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PERIOD," HALLGRIMSSON REPLIED, "THREE MONTHS." EAST THEN ASKED HOW

SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND WAS TOLD GOI ASSUMED DELEGATION WOULD COME FROM LONDON FOR PURPOSE. EAST SAID PLANNING AND HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WOULD EAT INTO THREE MONTH PERIOD AND ASKED IF HE COULD NOT CARRY ON TALKS WITH GOI OFFICIALS. HALLGRIMSSON SAID THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. EAST THEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ON FISHING GROUNDS WHILE TALKS WERE CARRIED ON BUT GOT NO REPLY.

3. BRIT DCM SAID DECISION WOULD NOW BE POLITICAL ONE WHICH UK WOULD HAVE TO MAKE AGAINST TIME FACTOR SINCE PRESENT GUARANTEE TO TRAWLER OWNERS AGAINST LOSS OF INCOME (FOR CEASING FISHING WHEN REQUESTED TO DO SO BY GOI COAST GUARD) WOULD EXPIRE AT MIDNIGHT TOMORROW. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER UK GOVT WOULD BE IN POSITION FINANCIALLY TO EXTEND COMMITMENT FURTHER. IN ANY CASE, HE FELT TIME WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING WHEN UK WOULD BE FORCED TO ACCEPT ONE OF TWO EQUALLY UNPALATABLE ALTERNATIVES: EITHER WITHDRAW TRAWLERS FROM FISHING GROUNDS OR SEND BACK THE FRIGATES TO PROTECT THEM.
IRVING

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